

**IN THE SPECIFICATION.**

At the end of the sentence starting at page 3, line 8, add the following new sentence:

1 "Upon treatment of the gemstones it then appears that the copper oxide or copper metal has either diffused or bonded with the surface of the gemstone."

Replace the paragraph starting at page 4, line 10 with the following revised paragraph:

2 "Enhanced colors which can be imparted by the invention process can be varied based on such variables as the particular gemstone being treated, the particular treating agent(s) employed, the conditions to which the gemstones are subjected, and the like. For example, topaz can be modified to have a light yellow to orange color, or a light pink to reddish color, depending on the treating agent(s) and treating conditions employed. Additionally, increasing or reducing the amount of oxygen present during treatment may affect the color itself. For example, after treating the topaz in ~~color~~ copper to impart a yellow color to the topaz, and then subjecting the enhanced topaz in a reducing atmosphere at about 800° C for about 4 hours, the color will begin to develop a red hue. Sapphire can be treated to have a light yellow to an orange color, and may be treated at a higher temperature than topaz. In general silicate minerals at high temperature will reduce to glass, where sapphire, being an oxide mineral, can withstand a much higher temperature.